Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). The Government have also launched a new wage employment scheme namely National Food For Works Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts of 27 States of the country in order to generate supplementary wage employment and to provide food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. NFFWP is open to the rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work. To provide employment in the rural areas to the needy, a comprehensive Bill known as "National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill" has been recently framed and introduced in the Parliament.

4. The SGSY particularly focuses on vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Guidelines stipulate that the SCs/STs will account for atleast 50% of the Swarozgaris assisted, and that the subsidy provided to the SC/STs persons would also be at a higher rate of 50% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/. Under the Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), 22.5% of the resources given to each District and intermediate-level panchayat must be spent on individual beneficiary/ group schemes for SCs/STs below the poverty line. Besides, out of the earmarked resources at Gram Panchayat level a minimum of 50% share of the resources is meant for creation of need-based village infrastructure in SC/ST habitations/wards. Under the National Food For Works Programme (NFFWP), 150 most backward districts were identified by the Planning Commission on the basis of proportion of SC/ST population, agricultural productivity per worker and agricultural wage rates ensuring due preference for the SC/ST population.

Sugar import from India by Pakistan

† *408. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI RS. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Pakistan Government has lifted the ban on sugar import from India and now Government are considering to export the sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when this export will start and the quantity of sugar being considered to be exported every year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Pakistan has recently decided to allow import of raw and refined sugars from India both by Public as well as Private Sectors including *via* land route, on duties and taxes as levied on its import from worldwide sources.

(c) Export of sugar to Pakistan would be regulated under our current Foreign Trade Policy; according to which sugar is freely exportable except under the perferential quotas to the European Union (EU) and USA, which is through State Trading Enterprises. The, quantity of sugar exported to any country would depend on commercial considerations like the demand, availability, national and international prices, etc. No target is separately being fixed for export of sugar to Pakistan.

Exempting SEZs and EO Units from labour laws

*409. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Planning Commission has recommended that Special Economic Zones, Export-Oriented Units and large Special-Economic Zones should be given exemption of complying with provisions of some of the Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details of provisions that Planning Commission wish to exempt for above zones;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Planning Commission has recommended for amending some of the labour laws on priority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) In the Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission observed that there was a need to build a consensus to amend labour laws to remove some of the rigidities that adversely affect the competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing industry, and that can also be a constraint on the expansion of employment